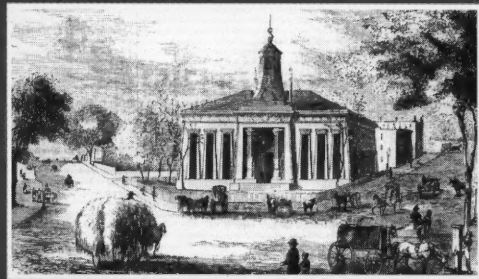
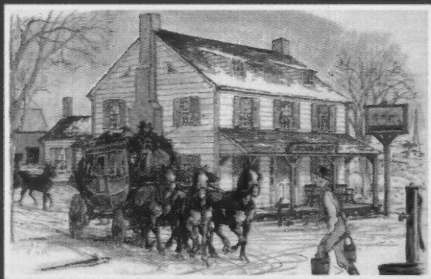


The Newark Municipal Council Chamber City Hall

Newark, New Jersey



In the seventeenth and the eighteenth centuries Newark's township form of government was based upon a New England system of government which seldom met. Thus, a permanent meeting place was not needed. churches, markets, and even taverns and hotels served this function for 170 years. Both the second and third structures of Old First Church were used, as was the Rolf House and the Archer Gifford's Tavern. At one point the First Presbyterian Church hosted the government, and later the old Market House.



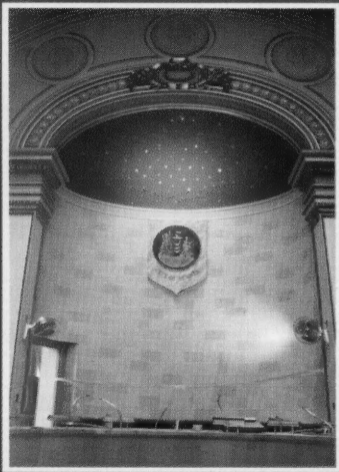
After the city was incorporated in 1836, a more formal building was required for the seat of government. Consequently the Council met in the lodge room of Newark Academy and briefly used the Park House. By 1838 the Egyptian-style Essex County Court House was shared by Newark and Essex County, and this too was outgrown. From 1848 and 1854 City Hall was relocated to Newark's Library Hall, and the old Centre Market which stood on the Morris Canal at Broad Street.



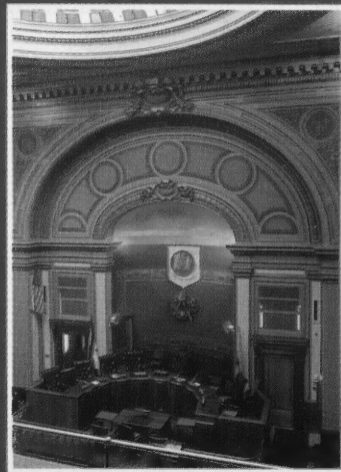
To remedy the problem of a “wandering” City Hall a committee, chaired by judge Herman Schalk, was appointed to search for a permanent home. It decided to purchase an already-existing building. The building selected was the MacGregor House also know as Stuart’s Hotel at the corner of William and Broad streets. Architect A. C. Neumann remodeled the structure to accommodate the city’s needs. By 1864 Newark Government had its own home which was to last until the completion of the current City Hall in 1906.

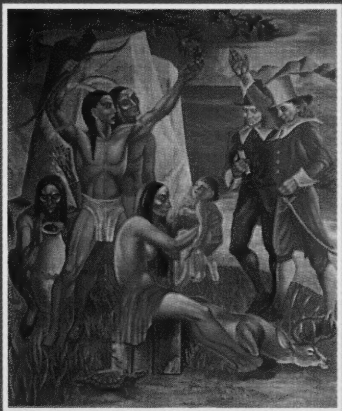
At the close of the 19th century, Newark had again outgrown its meeting place. It was decided to replace the first city-owned building with a newer and enlarged structure. Newark now ranked as a major American city and required a city hall that would serve a modern urban center. A building committee was appointed which included Newark notables Andrew Kirkpatrick, Gottfried Krueger and James Howell. A new, not a renovated building was necessary, and it was suggested that the commission have an open competition for a building architect. Five finalists would be paid \$1000 for their plans, with one selected by an outside jury to design the new building.



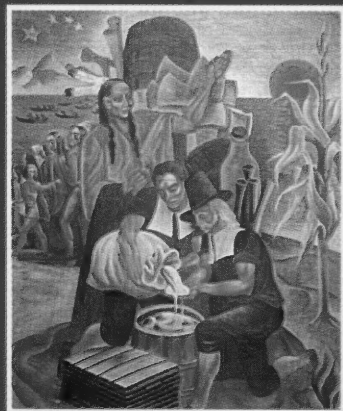


The Council Chamber along with the great rotunda are the most impressive features of the building. With the exception of the east end of the room, the walls are laid out in panels and pilasters. Graceful arches behind the rostrum relieve the monotony of this design and afford opportunity for varied and original decorative effects. The upper part of the recess is finished in gold leaf, which impresses visitors entering by the large doorway leading from the main stairway hall. Although the ceiling is lofty, the acoustic properties of the Council Chamber are excellent. The long, straight balcony at the west end of the room, extended from the north wall to the south wall, is within easy hearing distance of the rostrum. The desks for the members of the Council are arranged in a semi circle.





WPA era murals by Michael Lenson are special features of the Council Chamber. He was asked to create ten large panels for the upper walls which describe the colonial founding, as well as the rise of the modern city of Newark. The topics selected included Newark's original land purchase from the Lenapi, the 1710 tax revolt against the absentee landlords, the emergence of industrial Newark, the growth of Newark's leather and malleable iron industries, the building of the Morris Canal, and the manufacture of the steam locomotive and the corresponding emergence of modern Newark.



THE ARCHITECTS

John H. Ely and Wilson Ely were selected from a group of 75 applicants to design the new building. While son Wilson Ely was born in Trenton, he spent most of his professional career in Newark, and is considered by many as one of the city's finest architects. In addition to Newark City Hall, he designed other important landmarks including the National Newark and Essex Bank, the American Insurance Company, and the Howard Savings Institution. Outside Newark he was responsible for East Orange City Hall, the Morristown Hospital and the Morristown Trust Company.

THE BUILDER

The contractor selected to build city hall was E.M. Waldron, born in County Mayo, Ireland in 1864. He came to the United States at the age of 16 where he was first employed as a weaver in a Canal Street hosiery mill. Later he was apprenticed to a bricklayer at Riker and Polle, and by 1888 had established the firm of E.M. Waldron with his two brothers.

He was involved in all types of local activities, ran unsuccessfully for mayor and was an official in a local bank and insurance company. But he is best remembered as being one of the state's finest builders.

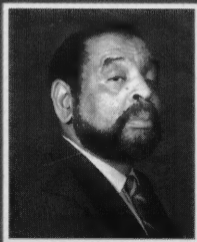
Most of his work was done here in Newark and Essex County, but his greatest monuments to his professional abilities are Newark's Sacred Heart Cathedral and City Hall.

THE MURAL ARTIST

Michael Lenson studied at the National Academy in New York City and at several European schools. Previously he was commissioned to create murals for the New Jersey state building at the New York World's Fair, at the Essex Mountain Sanatorium, and at Weequahic High School.



Sharpe James
Mayor



Donald Bradley
Council President

Mayor-Municipal Council Government

Newark has been governed since 1954 by Mayor-Council Plan C of New Jersey's Optional Municipal Charter Law, which states: "Each municipality hereunder shall be governed by an elected council and an elected mayor and by such other officers and employees as may be duly appointed pursuant to this article, general law or ordinance." (N.J. Statutes Annotated 40:69A-32)

Five basic principles underlie Newark's Mayor-Municipal Council government:

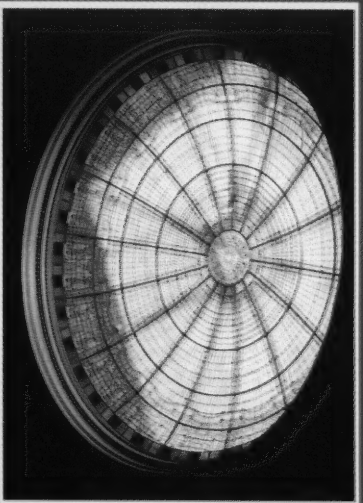
(1) **A SEPARATION OF POWERS** - *The Mayor is chief executive of city administration, while the Municipal Council serves as a legislative body to act on matters of public policy.*

(2) **EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBILITY** - *One united, coordinated administration under the Mayor, who, with the assistance of an appointed Business Administrator, is directly responsible for all city departments.*

(3) **POLICY LEADERSHIP** - *The Mayor is responsible for overall and long-range planning, answering to Newark citizens for decisions.*

(4) **CHECKS AND BALANCES** - *Through veto power, the Mayor checks the Municipal Council, while the legislative body balances the Mayor's authority through its legislative powers, the conformation of appointments, and approval of the annual operating budget. Council may also conduct investigations into city operations, and may remove for cause any municipal officer other than the Mayor and Council members.*

(5) **REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE** - *The Mayor and four members of the Municipal Council are elected from the city-at-large. Five members of the Municipal Council are elected on the basis of one each from the city's five wards to bring individual representation to all sections of Newark. Term of office is four years, and all ten positions are filled at the same time. Municipal Elections are nonpartisan - candidates run without party labels - and runoff elections may be held to assure that winners have the support of a majority of voters.*



City of Newark

SHARPE JAMES, Mayor

Municipal Council

DONALD BRADLEY, Council President

GEORGE BRANCH, Central Ward
 ANTHONY CARRINO, North Ward
 MILDRED C. CRUMP, At-Large
 GARY HARRIS, At-Large
 HENRY MARTINEZ, East Ward
 LUIS A. QUINTANA, At-Large
 RONALD L. RICE, West Ward
 DONALD TUCKER, At-Large

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Robert P. Marasco
City Clerk

Charles Cummings
*Official Newark Historian
 Researcher*